



Newsletter No. 7

June 2023

Dear reader,

Our Team welcomes you back to the ECEG's monthly newsletter! Our monthly *rendez-vous* when we share the ECEG's and its members & partners' activities, as well as provide insights on the latest developments in the EU institutions.

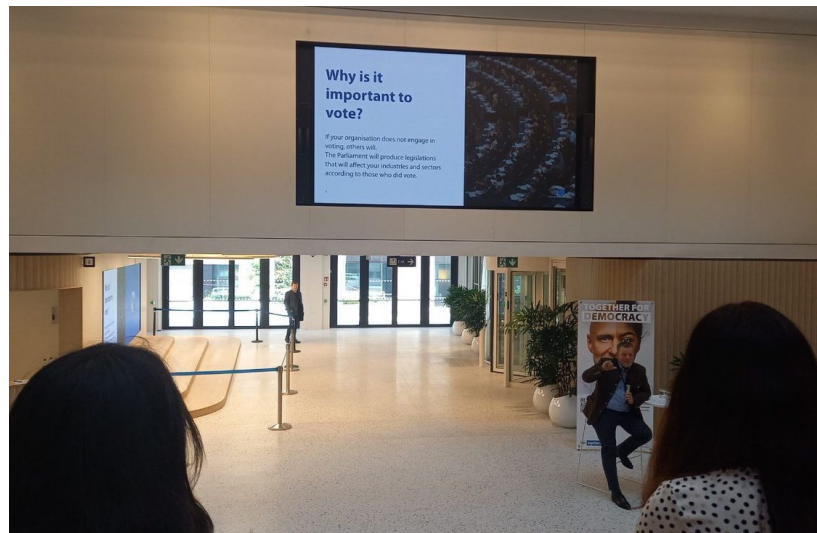
Summer has arrived, bringing with it much news to report! Starting from our participation in various meetings and conferences on education, skills, sustainability, and the cleaning industry, moving to the EU institutions, with updates on the Social Dialogue initiative, Quality Traineeship Directive and the EU Talent Pool.

As always, enjoy the reading!

ECEG's Meetings & Activities

Brainstorming session: “*The Journey Towards EU Elections 2024*”

30 June 2023, European Parliament, Brussels



On **30 June**, the ECEG participated in the **brainstorming session**, organised by [TogetherEurope](#), “*The Journey Towards EU Elections 2024*”.

The European elections are not that far off, and the European Parliament is getting ready to lay the groundwork for a massive and well-targeted **go-to-vote communications campaign**.

As part of the strategy, the interactive workshop had a dual purpose:

- for the EU institution, to involve different stakeholders (employers, trade unions etc.) to actively inspire and engage their members, partners, clients and co-workers for the upcoming elections,
- for the organisations, to make their voices heard by playing a part in the discussions and sharing perspectives, opinions and good practice examples around the following two questions:
 - *What and how do you plan to communicate with your members and employees for EE24?*
 - *What would you need for a successful EE24 campaign?*

ECRN Conference: “Future Skills: Regional Contribution to Defining the Future of the Energy-Intensive Industries”

28 June 2023, Brussels



ECEG attended and contributed to the [European Chemical Regions Network \(ECRN\)](#) Conference on skills and transition for the chemical industry. We discussed the role of **regional** and **local** authorities in the **green** and **digital** transitions. Participants had the opportunity to get first-hand information on the initiatives developed and run on the regional level in different Member States.

Speakers also covered **skills** gaps in the chemical sector looking both at possible short and long-term solutions for the industry.

All agreed that Innovation and Learning Labs, such as [Chemelot \(CHILL\)](#) in the Netherlands are best-case examples in meeting the STEM and skills needs in general, alongside dual learning opportunities.

Cross-sectoral Social Partners' dedicated Working Group on "Labour and skills shortages"

27 June 2023, Brussels

On **27 June**, ECEG participated at the cross-sectoral social partners' Working Group on "**Labour and skills shortages**", jointly organised by [BusinessEurope](#), [ETUC](#), [SGI Europe](#) and [SMEUnited](#).

During the meeting, BusinessEurope presented its statement "**Towards an EU action plan to address labour and skills shortages**", which underlined 7 key actions to be implemented at EU level, namely:

1. Reducing inactivity rates in Europe.
2. Education and training reforms for a timely and effective updating of training curricula.
3. Improving recognition of skills and qualifications for non-regulated professions in a manner that respects national competences.
4. Improving recognition of skills and qualifications for regulated professions.
5. Promoting entrepreneurship education.
6. Improving the coordination at EU level of shortage occupation lists and
7. Labour market tests.

[Cedefop](#) and [ELA](#) also contributed to the meeting, while national and sectoral social partners shared best practice examples.

EFCI Conference: “Daytime cleaning in practice: a new reality for the European Cleaning industry”

27 June 2023, Brussels



SAVE THE DATE!

EFCI

DAYTIME CLEANING IN PRACTICE:
a new reality for the European cleaning industry

🕒 27 June | 14.00 - 17.00 CET

📍 Residence Palace, Brussels

Best practices from practical examples of daytime cleaning arrangements in Europe

On **27 June**, ECEG attended the EFCI Conference devoted to the service sector, “**Daytime cleaning in practice: a new reality for the European cleaning industry**”.

Although the cleaning sector has a strong annual turnover and played a crucial role in fighting pandemics, the sector is largely undervalued, and its actors are not that visible. The daily cleaning is a good system but switching to it must be the choice of contractual parts.

What can make a difference is a shift of perspective and mentality. MEPs present at the Conference emphasised the essential role of having strong social dialogue and a better political influence to draw attention to this sector.

Part of the solution is by **switching to daytime cleaning** and **continuous cleaning activity**. Several reports have already shown a positive response from many companies and customers, as well as positive effects on productivity and industry visibility. However, different barriers limiting this transition still exist, such as readaptation issues from the company’s side and resistance to the change from the clients.

The Conference concluded with a panel that renewed the need to strengthen economic, political, and social aspects of the service sector.

European Sustainability Energy Week

20-22 June 2023, Brussels



ECEG attended the 17th edition of the [European Sustainable Energy Week \(EUSEW\)](#), the biggest annual event dedicated to renewables and efficient energy use in the EU.

This year's edition hosted over 2000 onsite and 8000 online participants, [405 speakers](#), [7 plenaries](#), [61 policy sessions](#), [35 Energy Fair stands](#). [EUSEW platform](#) allows to [watch replays](#) of all the sessions online.

Our takeaways from the sessions dedicated to skills:

The energy sector wants to expand but it lacks skilled people. Skills are required in different fields, including not only engineering but also law and social sciences-related ones. Multi-disciplinary and intra-disciplinary modules were mentioned as potential solutions though these could pose challenges in delivering on the up-/re-skilling. In terms of the research agenda, this shall be mirrored both in the high-level education but also be connected to VET.

Speakers referred to concentrating on the purpose of the jobs and proposing to **run information campaigns** in the media, by i.e., appointed specialists from the European Commission covering the jobs of the future, similar to “the technicians of the future”.

“Making Skills Count” Conference

08-09 June 2023, Brussels



On **08-09 June**, ECEG attended the **“Making Skills Count” Conference** organized by the European Commission in Brussels. Our association had a stand at the dedicated marketplace where we presented the digital curricula for the chemical industry developed during the EU-funded project “*Identifying and Meeting Digital Skills Needs in the European Chemical, Pharmaceutical, Rubber, and Plastics Industry – Social Partner Initiative to prepare the Sector now and for the Future*” jointly run with FECCIA and Ledarna.

“Making Skills Count” was one of the major events of the European Year of Skills 2023. It aimed to explore how skills ‘count’ for individuals, organisations and industries. It brought together leading experts, policymakers and key stakeholders from the field and presented initiatives and tools addressing skills-related challenges.

The main takeaways for us:

Throughout panel sessions, a key theme was the need for industries to analyse where they are in terms of skills ‘acquired’ and needed. Multiple speakers spoke about the involvement of all key stakeholders from social partners (employers & trade unions), to training providers and policymakers. Pay, working conditions, work-life balance, in-job training and opportunities for career development were key concerns raised as main drivers for investment in skills.

ECEG's #YouthInChem22 info session

07 June 2023, Brussels



On **07 June**, ECEG ran an **information session** for the two [#YouthInChem22 contest](#)'s winners: Cristina Santamaria Olivera from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and Gréta Galgóczy from the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) of Budapest.

During the meeting, participants discussed:

- The Commission's [European Year of Youth 2022](#) & the [European Year of Skills 2023](#), together with Jitka Hrudová (DG EMPL, European Commission),

- [Ceemet](#)'s activities on STEM and in the framework of the EYS 2023 with Sabina Casini (Chair of the Working Group Education),
- The [Transition Pathway for the Chemical industry](#) with Roman Mokry (DG GROW, European Commission),
- The priorities of the upcoming Spanish Council Presidency with Isabel Yglesias (Head of European Affairs and Delegate to the EU at [CEOE](#)) and
- The main activities of [PetrochemicalsEurope](#) with the association's Director, Philip De Smedt.

ECEG-industriAll Europe Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee (SSDC) meeting

06 June 2023, Brussels



The ECEG and [industriAll European Trade Union](#), alongside their national members met on **06 June** for the second expert group meeting at the European Commission.

Amongst others, Social Dialogue coordinator, Jitka Hrudova (DG Employment) presented the objectives and the upcoming events organized in the framework of the [EU Year of Skills](#), social partners exchanged on the final deliverables of the finalized EU funded project “*On the Road to Climate Neutrality 2050*” and on Due Diligence.

We were very grateful for the contribution of the external experts/guests.

Amongst them, the two [#YouthInChem22](#) contest’s winners: Cristina Santamaria Olivera from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and Gréta Galgóczy from the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) of Budapest.

Dr. Bernd Vogler, the Director General of the German chemical employers’ association, BAVC’s representation at Rhineland Palatinate. He presented his regions’ [Transformation Council](#) which is to assist the industry undergo the energy transition.

Monika Banka, the Policy Coordinator of the [European Chemical Regions Network](#) (ECRN), took us through the network’s priorities for 2023, regional partnerships and the contribution to the just transition platform.

Ceemet - industriAll Europe's joint event: “#EYS2023: Social partners in action for skills in the metal industry”

05 June 2023, European Parliament



On **05 June**, Social Partners of the MET industry, [Ceemet](#) and [industriAll Europe](#) hosted a joint dinner-event at the European Parliament dedicated to “***Social partners in action for Skills in the metal industry***”. The event was co-hosted by **MEPs Sabine Verheyen** (EPP, Germany) and **João Albuquerque** (S&D, Portugal).

ECEG was kindly invited alongside multiple stakeholders, among them employers’ associations, trade unions, EU policymakers and experts in skills and education.

Four panel discussions concentrated on attracting young workers to the MET industry, skills needs’ planning, reskilling and upskilling as well as the job transition. Practical and best practice examples were shared by Ceemet’s and industriAll Europe’s members, European Commission and Cedefop. Guests also actively participated and shared their respectful sectors’ examples during the joint dinner-event.

ECEG's WG Education & LLL meeting

05 June 2023, Brussels



On **05 June**, the ECEG's **WG Education & LLL** members gathered in Brussels for its first in-person meeting of the year.

For the first time, the meeting had the unique participation of two young girls, PhD students in the field of chemistry and winners of the **ECEG's Young Chemical Influencer contest** (#YouthInChem22). Their inspiring presentations were a refreshing outlook on the central role played by chemistry in the green transition and the personal factors that influenced their choice to opt for a STEM career.

It followed a presentation of the [STEMfluencers project](#) from ECEG's Belgian member, [essenscia](#).

The initiative's main goal is to attract talent in studying chemical subjects by inspiring and raising interest in STEM among pupils young students (between 12 and 14 years old).

[CSR Europe](#) also joined the meeting and shared two ongoing projects:

- **"Business Uniting Talents 2030"**, which focuses on attracting talents in business and attempts to address the multicultural diversity and inclusion issues.
- **"Together 4 STEM"** Platform, which promotes inclusive STEM education and professions through sustainable business collaboration and active bridge-building between industry and education.

The next WG Education & LLL meeting is taking place on **01 December** in **Brussels**.



Institutions

MEPs urge the Commission to propose legislation to ensure “quality traineeships” across the EU

14 June 2023, Strasbourg

On **14 June**, the Strasbourg Plenary adopted with 404 votes in favour, 78 against and 130 abstentions a report calling on the Commission to propose a Directive on Quality Traineeships and to update the existing [Quality Framework for Traineeships](#).

According to MEPs, the new Directive should set minimum quality standards, including rules on the duration of traineeships, as well as on remuneration and access to social protection in accordance with national law and practices.

Traineeships should be adequately compensated, covering as a minimum the cost of basic living necessities such as food, housing, and transportation, taking into account the cost of living in each Member State, Parliament says. The report also calls on EU member states to make traineeships more accessible to persons with disabilities and to those from vulnerable backgrounds while encouraging cross-border traineeships.

Report

Adoption of the Council Recommendation on Social Dialogue

12 June 2023, Brussels

On 12 June, the Council of the European Union adopted the **Recommendation on strengthening social dialogue in the EU**.

The Recommendation is to support the Member States in implementing Principle 8 of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) by providing guidance on reinforcing social dialogue and collective bargaining at national level, better involvement

of social partners in policy design, promoting the benefits of social dialogue and capacity building for social partner organisations.

The draft Recommendation discussed at the EPSCO meeting can be found [here](#).

The document is also available in [CS](#) [DA](#) [ES](#) [ET](#) [FR](#) [HR](#) [IT](#) [LT](#) [NL](#) [PT](#) [RO](#) [SL](#)

Establishment of an EU Talent Pool for Third Country nationals

The European Commission announced that it will propose in early **autumn 2023** an **initiative to establish an EU Talent Pool for Third Country nationals**. The EU Talent Pool will provide for an EU-wide platform aimed at facilitating international recruitment and providing opportunities for skilled third-country nationals to work in the EU. The objective is to facilitate the matching between open vacancies in the EU and skilled third-country nationals residing outside of the EU.

The EU Talent Pool initiative is one element of the package to harness the potential of talent mobility as part of the European Year of Skills.

In this context, the Commission organised on **29 June 2023** a targeted consultation to gather views of European social partners. The ECEG will submit its written contribution to the upcoming initiative in the coming weeks.



Next meetings

- **13-14-15**, Brussels
ChemSkills' kick-off meeting
- **04 October 2023**, Bratislava
ECEG's Board & GA meeting
- **05 October 2023**, Bratislava
ECEG's Steering Committee meeting
- **30 November 2023**, Brussels
SSDC Plenary meeting
- **01 December 2023**, Brussels
WG Education & LLL meeting

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